

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/01/24 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000600100092-4

IDEA-0867-62

22 August 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OSA/DD/R

SUBJECT : The Autumnal Transition Season (15 September - 15 October)  
and Its Effect on North Vietnam and South China Weather

1. The southwest monsoon of moist, unstable air which has persisted over North Vietnam and South China through the summer ends abruptly during the Autumnal Transition Season offering the best opportunity of obtaining photographs of North Vietnam, and the beginning of the optimum period (October - December) for photographing South China.

2. The retreat of the southwest monsoon is marked by the passage of the Intertropical Conveyance Zone (ICZ) in its southward migration through North Vietnam. Increased shower and thundershower activity, occasionally intensified by westward-moving storms or typhoons, is experienced as the ICZ passes over most localities. The northeast monsoon enters the area in a series of strong bursts of cool air, reversing the flow pattern over the area. North Vietnam, south of 19N receives its heaviest rainfall of the year due to squalls and showers associated with the retreating ICZ and the advancing cool air.

3. During this period, the probability of less than 2/8 cloud cover over North Vietnam approaches one day in three, opposed to approximately one in ten during August.

4. The following represents the number of days per month where less than 2/8 cloud cover might be expected for selected North Vietnam and South China stations:

NORTH VIETNAM	August	(September	October)	November	December
Hanoi	2	4	9	6	10
Lao Kay	3	7	9	6	7
Son La	3	5	11	7	13
Thanh Hoa	3	8	13	8	8
Vinh	4	6	8	3	5
Dong Hoi	5	7	11	6	5
SOUTH CHINA	August	September	(October	November	December)
Kueilin	4	5	6	7	8
Canton	4	4	9	9	9
Nanning	1	1	5	6	7
Kunming	3	7	9	6	7

5. A more comprehensive study of the entire Far East areas of interest is being prepared for your use and will be available by 27 August 62.

This document contains information  
referring to Project IDEALIST

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Chief, Weather Staff, OSA

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Chief, Weather Staff, OSA/DDR

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